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A CROATIAN WEDDING PROCESSION, ACCOMPANIED BY A PERIPATETIC STRINGED ORCHESTRA

In twenty years, from 1880 to 1900, the Croats increased in number by 33 per cent, due to a low death rate and a very high birth rate. As among all South Slavic peoples, there is a large preponderance of male over female children in Croatian families.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Croatia: Where New-Found Liberty Is Dear

A CHANGE in the affairs of Yugo-Slavia is promised by decision of 96 Croatian members to take their seats in the National Parliament after refusing to participate since the adoption of the constitution four years ago.

The official name of Yugo-Slavia is "The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes." The Croats, who have a more western culture than their Slav brothers, have smarted because they have not been granted a leading part in the new nation's activities. The Croatian attitude is made understandable by the story of a Croat newly arrived in America and a New York newsboy.

It was when the Croat was yet an Hungarian, politically, that he went up to Agram, which then was Zagreb, officially. There he waited for a thousand or so of his fellows to foregather before they swarmed on a train for Fiume, which only knew d'Annunzio as a poet. Then he embarked for the United States.

What Puzzled the Newcomer

Being a fairly well-informed citizen this newcomer had heard of skyscrapers, elevated trains and electric signs. However, the phenomenon which spelled the spirit of America to him, as he told it in after years, was the newsboy.

This newsboy sold papers openly on the streets to anyone who could buy. The police didn't seem to mind. Also the papers might be had at newsstands. Now in his Old-World Agram if one wanted a newspaper he went to the newspaper office for it. Or ordered it sent by mail.

Some days one didn't get any paper. That meant that the government had confiscated the issue. If the editor had erred too greatly, or once too often, in offending the government, one never heard of the paper again. If one wished to look up the editor it was convenient to try the jail first.

Small wonder the Croat is jealous of his new-found liberty and wishes to emphasize his voice in the recent national partnership of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Serb and Croat Alike

Perhaps one aggravation arises because the Serb and the Croat are so nearly alike. When Austria-Hungary took over Bosnia and Herzegovina from Turkey, all but two per cent of the inhabitants were Serbs and Croats. Living long together had made the two peoples similar but each still is jealous of its identity.

The Slovene, the third and more silent partner, stands apart from either Serb or Croat. Austria governed the Slovenes and treated them most kindly of all her subject races because they were compliant and complacent. War checked their coming and legal barriers now keep them out, but 15 years ago there were 100,000 of them in this country, and they were welcome citizens because so many passed through the cities to settle on farms.

Agram, Croatia's spick-and-span capital, offers physical evidence of the remarkable vitality of the Croat. It has a church, St. Mark's, and before the church is a paving with five holes, which constitute the shrine of the Croatians. These holes mark the places where five iron posts were set up to pile on the faggots which were to burn the last of the Croatian kings. That was in the thirteenth

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ARABS OF THE DESERT IN THEIR CITY COSTUMES

Bedouins in the Arab kingdoms wear what is probably one of the oldest forms of headgear. It consists of a large square of cloth, called a ***kaffeyah,*** which is doubled cornerwise, laid on the head, and held in place by a thick double coil made of wool or goat's hair. The variation in this coil indicates the particular region from which the wearer comes.

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St. Kilda: An Island Which Is Lost Every Year

FARTHER out in the Atlantic than any of the other land of the British Isles, the Hebrides are isolated even from their mother country. A series of unfavorable seasons in these bleak British islands has made it necessary for Englishmen to organize a relief fund.

St. Kilda, outermost of all the Hebrides, is typical of them. It was among the last of the strongholds of the Great Auk before its final extinction.

This bird was at one time a valuable asset of the islanders, who now catch puffins, the fulmar—one of the largest of the petrels—guillemots, razor-birds, and solan geese both for their food and oil. A specimen of the Great Auk was captured alive off St. Kilda in 1821 and a later one in 1840. One or two later specimens may have lingered on in Iceland or the Faroe Islands, but it evidently disappeared from the earth entirely about 1844 or 1845.

Fish Oil From Birds

During one week of August each year the St. Kildans take the fulmar in great numbers. Their bodies yield an oil which is practically a pure fish-oil possessing most of the qualities of that made from the liver of the cod. After this has been extracted, the islanders preserve the meat of the bird for consumption during the winter months. Nearly every person and thing that comes from St. Kilda can be identified by its fish-oil smell.

The island, which is probably the core of a Tertiary volcano, becomes "lost" every autumn when the heavy mists of the Atlantic close in on it and make the one small port on its precipitous sides inaccessible. Its people have no means of communication with the outside world during their isolation. For generations, when they have been near starvation or afflicted with diseases during the winter months, they have relied upon "sea messages" for aid. They write messages and put them in boxes or bottles when the wind is blowing from the west and trust that they will reach the shores of Scotland within a week. A wireless station was built previous to the World War on the island, but it is said that even before the Germans destroyed it, it was of no value to the islanders, for they refused to learn the use of the instrument, saying that it was against nature.

Land of Menhirs and Cromlechs

The handful of men and women who inhabit this outpost of the British Empire are evidently direct descendants of the Black Danes, who pushed down from Norway and Jutland. The blood of these rovers shows today in the broad-headed, dark complexioned people of the Orkneys, the Hebrides, and the coasts of the Irish Sea. The St. Kildans, however, speak a Scottish Gaelic. Most of the Outer Hebrides also are dotted with menhirs, cromlechs, and circles of standing stones somewhat similar to the Druid circle at Stonehenge.

St. Kilda and other islands in the group are remaining portions of the land-surface of the oldest continent of which we have any trace in Europe. When the Caledonian earth movements occurred at the close of Silurian times, the ocean floor was pushed upward forming the mountain peaks of what is now northern

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century; but the national spirit of the Croats has burned fiercely ever since, unquenched by domination of other powers.

Peasants Are Picturesque

Away from Agram—which never was Zagreb to the Croatian way of speaking—the Croatian is a peasant, and one of the most picturesque of his kind in all Europe. His dress is light, colorful, and beautifully embroidered.

As she tends her sheep or her geese a Croatian girl will generally be knitting. Before her teens she begins upon her trousseau, for when she marries she must have enough stockings to last her and her husband all their lives. In addition she must have ready a complete outfit for herself and for the bridegroom as well.

The parents assure themselves the young man can support a home; nothing more is expected from him. Whereupon he gives his wife an apple, she presents him with a handkerchief, and these simple tokens signify an engagement which rarely is broken.

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CROATIAN MAN AND WIFE: COSTLY THEIR HABITS AS THEIR PURSE CAN BUY, AND OFT EXPRESSED IN FANCY, RICH AND GAUDY

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Volcano Gives Lesson in Farming

A VOLCANO in Alaska, far from most of America's farms, turned agricultural "instructor" a few years ago and staged an important demonstration of modern farming methods on a gigantic scale.

The story of this impersonal giant of the north which wrought its agricultural will on hundreds of square miles of territory, in a way to make the most influential county farm agent envious, is told in a recently published book, "The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes," by Robert F. Griggs, who headed the National Geographic Society Expedition which discovered the now famous valley.

For years the Federal and State Departments of Agriculture and other advocates of better farming methods have been preaching the advantages of the "dust mulch." "Keep down the weeds, keep in the moisture, and give your plants a chance" has been the slogan. When Katmai Volcano on the Alaska Peninsula blew its top off, it subjected the surrounding country to a "dust mulch" such as had seldom been seen before. Included in the "mulched" territory was the island of Kodiak whose green grasses supported herds of cattle and on which was a number of farms.

The mulch treatment was pretty heroic at Kodiak. Over much of the island the volcanic ash deposits were a foot or more deep. All vegetation except trees and bushes was blanketed, and when a National Geographic Society Expedition reached the country soon after the eruption it looked like a gray desert. Other expeditions of the Society which touched Kodiak in the following years found a surprising transformation. Grasses were more luxuriant than ever before, put out earlier, and grew much higher. The large, luscious berries for which Kodiak was famous were bigger and more numerous than ever. Even the trees grew faster.

Most of the local observers jumped to the conclusion that the ash was a wonderful fertilizer. But when it was analyzed it turned out to have about the fertilizing power of sharp quartz sand: as a fertilizer it was absolutely worthless. Then evidence was gathered which showed that the remarkable growth of plants at Kodiak beginning a year or so after the ashfall was solely due to the action of the ash as a mulch. The heavy blanket of ash, it was found, smothered the many little weeds and grasses that were fighting for a place in the sun and were absorbing much plant food from the soil. The strong grasses and the larger plants with virile root systems continued to live, and when they began to grow again found themselves for the first time without competition. Living was easier; each survivor had a bigger share of the plant food and grew abnormally.

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Scotland. This oldest land-mass in the British Isles area, known as the Huronian continent, is revealed in the Outer Hebrides of today.

The land in many parts of the islands west of Scotland is very poor, and though the climate is equable, it is difficult to do any farming. The rainfall is very heavy, but less than on some portions of the mainland. The grey seal, which is restricted to the shores of the North Atlantic, finds friendly haunts on the rugged coasts of the Hebrides; and a characteristic race of small horses is still to be found on the islands, though they are fast becoming extinct.

St. Kildans hunt, on the island of Soay, lying about 40 miles farther west out in the Atlantic, sheep which belong to a large-horned breed once widely spread throughout Europe during the Bronze Age. These animals are today the last representatives of their race.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department
National Geographic Society
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send ..... copies of the Geographic News Bulletin for the school year beginning with the issue of ....., for classroom use, to

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Address for sending Bulletins .....

City ..... State.....

I am a teacher in ..... school ..... grade

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription.

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Nejd: The Question Mark of Arabia

THE SULTAN of Nejd and Hasa, picturesque ruler of the fanatical Wahabis, is dead in his mysterious country in the heart of Arabia and the chancelleries of Europe are wondering whether this will mean more or less trouble in the turbulent peninsula of deserts. Westerners are not allowed in Nejd but their goods are, and any news from that isolated realm may mean something to the man who runs a watch factory in Massachusetts, owns a cotton plantation in Georgia, or makes phonograph records in New Jersey.

The American business man is alert to news of his customers, even though that commercial abstraction, the "ultimate consumer," is the wearer of a wrist watch who has halted his camel caravan under a friendly palm, an olive Arab maid whose trousered costume of American cotton cloth is set off by a goat's hair toque, or a band of roistering pearl divers who seek somniferous surcease from their work among the sharks by listening nightly to the tune of a new American graphophone.

A Song for a Mermaid's Tear

To note that a prima donna has traded a song for a mermaid's tear from the waters off the mountain of the mist, does not sound like trade. But when Mme. Blank, whose voice commands ten dollars per seat, is in the market for a string of Bahrein pearls, the jewelers on Fifth Avenue or Bond Street wax business-like. Yet the first statement is as literal as the second. If one translates Arabic place names into English but does not translate commodities into dollar marks he has a ready antidote for much that seems mystical. As for the song, it may be recorded and produced again for the ears of the divers who gathered the pearls.

The daily life in the oasis patches of desert-rimmed Nejd, with its dromedaries and dates and horses of high pedigree is fascinating enough, but the Persian Gulf coastal strip from Koweit down to Katar is all the stranger for the presence of customs of many far-away lands.

Here slavery survives in spite of international conventions to the contrary, and nomad sheiks wear dollar watches. Here the flea-bitten camel is the freight car and the Arabian horse the limousine, though automobiles have been introduced and a railway runs down from Bagdad, through Eden-land, to the head of the Persian Gulf. However, the shrine of romance of this new land which is emerging, along with Hejaz, Mesopotamia and Transjordania, as a political entity, lies in the waters off the Bahrein Islands.

Depends on Whims of Pretty Women

Here brown men play with death so the swains of many races may give lustrous pearls to their loved ones. A pearl buyer at Basra casually let fall the enduring truth which will be seized by the slogan writer who tries to "promote" Bahrein—"As long as there are pretty women there will be men buying pearls."

The stalwart, naked diver who clamps his nostrils with a forked bone, plugs his ears with beeswax and ties a stone to his feet, faces other perils than sharks. Poison rays may sting him, there is the ever present danger of staying under

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A PANORAMA OF AN AMERICAN DESERT

This scene is photographed from a cliff above Pueblo Bonito, a great communal home of early Indians in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, where a National Geographic Society expedition has been trying to trace the story of American aboriginal life before Columbus arrived. (See Bulletin No. 4.)

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Dairen: More Truly a "Bean Town" Than Boston

DAIREN and Boston—the world's premier "bean towns."

That might be an easy way of "placing" Dairen, Japan's wonder city in Manchuria, to which Japanese merchants and professional men are reported to be flocking from the Shantung port of Tsingtao, since Japan returned the latter to China.

Boston is famed in popular fable at least for the beans it consumes, and they come from other climes. Dairen lives not on but by beans: it is the port of the greatest bean country in the world, milling and shipping point for Manchuria's vast fields of the now well-known soy beans. Steamers come in an endless procession to Dairen's wharves to carry away countless tons of beans, thousands of gallons of oil and the soy sauce you eat on your chop-suey when you visit your local "Chinatown," and shiploads of great cartwheel-like discs of bean cake from the oil-mills. The thousands of gallons of soy bean oil which leave Dairen annually compete actively in world markets with American cottonseed oil as an olive-oil substitute.

Watch Your "I's"

It is easy to get an "i" out of place and so confuse Dairen, Manchuria, with Darien, the old name of Panama; for these are conspicuous members of geography's confusing group of near-twins, which includes also Chile and Chihli, Michigan and Michoacan, and the veritable family of Galicias and Galatias. Keats' line, "Cortez—silent upon a peak in Darien," may stick in your mind and help along the confusion between Dairen and Darien.

But after all you probably know Dairen by another name. It has as many aliases as an enterprising cracksman. To the Chinese it is Talien-wan; the Russians, who thought in 1899 that they had established there their long-sought ice-free Pacific port, called it Dalny; one western interpretation of its Japanese name is Tairen; but more properly it now gets into date-lines and head-lines as Dairen. Incidentally the name means "great connections," and it is truly a connecting link between the China that was and the Japan that is.

Ice-Free Door to Tremendous Wealth

Russia, great power of the West, left Dalny at the end of the Russo-Japanese War, an unhealthy, overgrown village with streets of mud. Japan, young Eastern giant but apt pupil of a more western West than Russia, gave the newly christened town paved streets, twentieth century sanitation, forest-clad hills, electric lights and street cars, and an efficient municipal government.

Politically, Dairen is the seat of administration of Japan's 99-year lease over the Kwan-tung or Liaotung peninsula, which forms the southern extremity of Manchuria, just west of Korea. Geographically and economically it is the ice-free door to all the potential wealth of Manchuria, eastern Mongolia, and most of Siberia. It would be difficult to conceive of a port in a relatively undeveloped region of the world more strategically situated.

Japan's tangible interests do not stop at the line of the 1220 square miles

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water too long, and the slower death from successive bleedings of the nose, caused by deep diving. The diver has little time to think of dangers but he must not become too absorbed in his submarine search to jerk the cord which signals his comrades to pull him up.

Night Life Is Tumultuous

The diving season lasts from June to November and the waters during that period are flecked with several thousand boats from which the divers work. In each of these boats are from half a dozen to a dozen men and ashore are many buyers, traders, and "hangers on." Of the night life one writer says:

"A night on this barbaric, tumultuous beach is not readily forgotten. A long row of mud-walled, straw-covered coffee shops stretches the length of Manama's water front, and from red sunset till flaring, noisy dawn the revels of the careless boatmen run their brawling course."

From these islands the Phoenicians are believed to have gone north to the Mediterranean. They are only twenty miles off the coast of Hasa, to the south of El Katif, city of underground water which gushes from many springs.

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of her lease surrounding Dairen. She also has a 99-year concession for the South Manchurian Railway which extends several hundred miles to the north through the center of Manchuria's almost matchlessly fertile plains. "Railway" must be taken in something of a Pickwickian sense. In breadth of activities this railway company has something in common with the British South Africa Company. In addition to its road, it operates a line of ocean steamers and great warehouses, develops power, runs mines, and manages lands.

Back-Home Railroad Facilities

The American who has put up with the inconveniences of unfamiliar and, to his mind, inefficient railroad equipment in Asia, will experience a feeling of relief when he travels in Manchuria. The Dairen passenger terminal furnishes a familiar lay-out even to entrances and exits under the tracks. If he is bound for Mukden the traveler can make the trip on an all-Pullman train with dining cars drawn by a powerful American locomotive. If he chooses a non-Pullman train, the day-coaches will be of the long, familiar, back-home variety. The road-bed is close in engineering perfection to the best in America, and the rails, of one of the heaviest weights that is rolled.

Dairen has other contracts with Shantung than being in part the legatee of its Japanese business. Its wharves and the bean fields back of them are a major sphere of activity for the surplus laborers of overcrowded Shantung. Every season between 50,000 and 100,000 Shantung coolies swarm over to the Liaotung peninsula to work there until winter slows up outdoor activities.

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HOW SOY BEANS ARE STORED IN CHINA

The beans are placed in a basket made of bands of straw braid. The bands, about eighteen inches in width, are wound round and round in a spiral from the bottom up, the bottom edge of the band being on the inside of the top edge of the band below, which overlaps it some four or six inches. This huge basket is filled with beans as it is built, thus holding the bands in place.